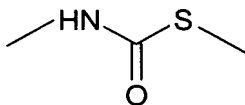


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (New): A thiocarbamide comprising at least one carbodiimide group and at least one thiocarbamic ester group of the formula



Claim 19 (New): The thiocarbamide according to claim 18, further comprising hydrophilic groups.

Claim 20 (New): The thiocarbamide according to claim 18, wherein the hydrophilic groups are selected from ionic groups or nonionic hydrophilic groups.

Claim 21 (New): The thiocarbamide according to claim 18, wherein the nonionic groups are polyalkylene oxide groups.

Claim 22 (New): The thiocarbamide according to claim 18, wherein the compounds are obtainable by reacting

- a) carbodiimides having at least one isocyanate group,
- b) mercapto compounds having at least one mercapto group, and
- c) optionally, additional compounds having isocyanate groups or isocyanate-reactive groups.

Claim 23 (New): The thiocarbamide according to claim 22, wherein the carbodiimides a) derive from aliphatic or araliphatic C4 to C20 polyisocyanates.

Claim 24 (New): The thiocarbamide according to claim 22, wherein the mercapto compounds b) comprise not only at least one mercapto group but also at least one hydrophilic group.

Claim 25 (New): The thiocarbamide according to claim 18, comprising on average from 1 to 20 carbodiimide groups and from 1 to 4 thiocarbamic ester groups.

Claim 26 (New): The thiocarbamide according to claim 18, comprising on average from 0.01 to 2 mol of hydrophilic groups per 1 kg of thiocarbamide.

Claim 27 (New): A method of using a thiocarbamide according to claim 18 as crosslinker for polymers in solution or dispersion in water.

Claim 28 (New): A method of using a thiocarbamide according to claim 18 as a stabilizer for polymers containing ester or amide groups.

Claim 29 (New): An aqueous polymer dispersion or polymer solution comprising from 0.1 to 50 parts by weight of a thiocarbamide according to claim 18 per 100 parts by weight of polymer.

Claim 30 (New): The aqueous polymer dispersion or polymer solution according to claim 29, wherein the dispersed or dissolved polymer is a polyurethane or a polymer obtainable by free-radical addition polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated compounds.

Claim 31 (New): The aqueous polymer dispersion or polymer solution according to claim 29, wherein the dissolved or dispersed polymer contains carboxylic acid groups.

Claim 32 (New): The aqueous polymer dispersion or polymer solution according to claim 30, wherein the dissolved or dispersed polymer contains carboxylic acid groups.

Claim 33 (New): A method of using the polymer dispersion or solution according to claim 29 as an adhesive, impregnant or coating material.

Claim 34 (New): A method of using the polymer dispersion or solution according to claim 29 as or in heat-activable adhesives.

Claim 35 (New): A substrate coated, impregnated or adhesively bonded with the polymer dispersion or solution according to claim 29.

Claim 36 (New): A substrate coated, impregnated or adhesively bonded with the polymer dispersion or solution according to claim 30.

Claim 37 (New): A substrate coated, impregnated or adhesively bonded with the polymer dispersion or solution according to claim 31.